



Parent-Child Dedication

Information

Dedication Class: 9:00 a.m., May 6, 2012

Dedication Services: May 13, 2012

Pitts Baptist Church
140 Pitts School Road NW
Concord, NC 28027

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The Christ-Centered Home

The family is a blessing ordained by God from the beginning of time. Children are a gift, a heritage, and a treasure of the Lord entrusted to their parents for care, protection, training, and for His glory. (Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 17:6)

It is important that you recognize this sacred trust and your responsibility to God for your children: To bring them up “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,” to instruct them, to guide them, and to provide a godly, Christ-centered home. (Psalm 78:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

While the Parent-Child Dedication service is not found specifically in scripture, it is founded on biblical principles. Parent-Child Dedication is the commitment to doing the hard work of raising children to be kind, obedient, and respectful. The scriptural source for this type of dedication is found in 1 Samuel 1:27-28.

*"I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted me what I asked of him.
So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life, he will be given over to the Lord."*

It is an expression of both worship and love for God and is your declaration to be a godly influence in the life your child. (Genesis 22:1-2; Matthew 19:13-15)

You are choosing to actively dedicate yourself to provide everything necessary for the spiritual, physical, social, and emotional growth of your child. For this to be most successful, you must continue to grow in your faith and understanding of God's Word. Spend time nurturing your faith at home as well as being consistent in church.

The dedication is an act of your worship and does not impart salvation to your child and it is also not a baptism. Every individual must make a personal choice to accept or reject Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross as redemption for sins. The Bible is clear that personal acceptance is the only way to heaven, and that no work of our own can impart salvation. (1 John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

We want you to raise your child to be a Christ-centered believer. In presenting your child for dedication at our church, you declare your concern for the spiritual life of this child and express your intent to lead him/her to know, love, and obey Jesus Christ.

We, in turn, take on the responsibility of encouraging and assisting you as you raise your child to know, love, and obey Jesus.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Parent-Child Dedication a requirement at Pitts Baptist Church?

No. Some parents prefer to simply dedicate their children to God in their hearts. The Parent-Child Dedication service is available for those who wish to make this commitment publicly.

Who should we invite to the service? Do I need to select "godparents" for my child?

You are welcomed to invite as many friends and family members as you'd like. We do not use the term "godparents." however, we certainly support your choice of significant individuals to offer support and encouragement and to hold you accountable to the commitment you will be making.

I am a single parent. May I still dedicate my child?

Absolutely.

I am just starting my spiritual journey, so how do I know if I'm ready for this?

The main thing you need to consider is whether or not you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You should not proceed with the dedication of your child until your relationship with Jesus Christ is what it should be.

What should I expect at the Parent-Child Dedication Service?

We celebrate Parent-Child Dedication during Sunday morning worship once or twice each year. Please be in PS-100 in the Preschool Building (by the Large Fellowship Hall) thirty minutes before the service is scheduled to begin. A ministry staff member will meet you there to pray with you and answer any last minute questions. The service will include the following:

- Invitation of each participating family to come to the altar
- An explanation of Parent-Child Dedication by the pastor
- Introduction of extended family and friends in the congregation
- Request of affirmation from dedicating parents regarding their desire to raise the child to love Jesus Christ
- Prayer for the family and child
- Presentation of certificate and Bible

May we bring a camera to take pictures of the service?

Feel free to ask a friend to take pictures/video before or during the service.

Parent-Child Dedication: Self-Assessment Quiz

What this isn't...

1. I understand this dedication is not a baptism for my child.
2. I understand that this dedication also does not impart salvation or church membership to my child.
3. I understand that this dedication does not “magically” cause my child to do what is right or acquire special status with God.
4. I understand that dedication is not a requirement for accepting Christ.
5. I understand that dedication is not for those who are living in rebellion to God’s Word, including those who have not trusted in Jesus alone for salvation.**

What this is...

1. Dedication is a time to thank and honor God for my child.
2. This dedication is the opportunity to dedicate myself to raise my child to know, love, and obey the Lord Jesus.
3. This dedication is my chance to share with the church my desire to grow a Christ-centered home and family.
4. This dedication is a time of rejoicing as my brothers and sisters in Christ covenant to support me in raising and training my child.
5. This dedication is the chance for me to recognize publicly that I have placed my faith and trust in Jesus and have received Him as my personal Lord and Savior, and that I want my home to reflect my desire to honor God and grow in faith.

*** It is not appropriate for parents living in willful sin to participate in this service. This includes cohabitating while unmarried or any other willful departure from God’s standards. If you have lived this way in the past, but are now living a pure life, desiring to honor God, this restriction does not apply to you. Please let us know how we can assist you to follow and obey the Lord.*

Parent-Child Dedication Service: Participant Information

Please return this information to the church office by April 8, 2012.

Dedication Service: Sunday, May 13, 2012

Parents' Names: _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Child's Birth Date: _____

Our family will participate in worship at (choose one) _____ 9 am _____ 10:30 am

Please list names and ages of older siblings. _____

A Parent-Child Dedication Class will be held on Sunday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the Cafe. This class will review the significance and meaning of dedication and will offer your family practical ways to minister to your child. Pastoral staff will join us as we prepare for the service. Refreshments will be served.

We have chosen the following verse as a life verse for our child. Please write the verse and the reference below. _____

Please submit two photographs of your child in print or electronic format that will be used for the slides which will be displayed in the service. These will be scanned and returned to you.

There may be special friends and family members you would like to include in the service. Please include a list of names and addresses for those individuals so that invitations may be mailed to them. You will want to notify guests in advance of the mailed invitations so that they may mark their calendars for this special day.